

## United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Safford Field Office 711 South 14th Avenue, Suite A Safford, Arizona 85546-3335 www.blm.gov/az/

August 27, 2014

In Reply Refer To: 4120 (G010)

CERTIFIED MAIL – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED NO. 6532 7070

Wendy Bryce 646 West 300 South Pima, Arizona 85543

Dear Ms. Bryce,

On July 5, 2013 you were notified that the BLM had prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA), DOI-BLM-AZ-G010-2013-0025-EA, for the grazing permit renewal of the Horse Mountain Allotment No. 45240. This notification invited you and the interested public to review the EA and submit their comments to the BLM, Safford Field Office. Comments on the EA were received from several interested publics. All comments were considered.

On August 29, 2013 the Horse Mountain Permit Renewal EA was completed. A Notice of Proposed Decision was issued via certified mail to the permittee and courtesy copies were provided to all interested publics. In addition, a copy of the EA and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was provided with the Proposed Decision. Two letters of protest were received, one from you and the other from the Western Watersheds Project.

The Safford Field Office considered all protests to the Proposed Decision and issued a Final Decision renewing the Grazing Permit on the Horse Mountain Allotment (#45240) for 10 years on July 28, 2014. The Final Decision was to implement the proposed action (terms and conditions) as described in the Environmental Assessment (EA).

Based on new information I have decided to vacate the final decision. The Safford Field Office plans on reassessing the supporting Rangeland Health Evaluation (RHE), the NEPA analysis and proposed management practices. A new Proposed Decision will be issued and opportunities for you and the interested public to review and offer input will be provided.

I appreciate the input and concerns expressed on behalf of all interested parties and we look forward to your continued participation in the permit renewal process.

Sincerely,

Scott C. Cooke Field Manager

cc:

| Western Watersheds Project<br>c/o Greta Anderson and Erik Ryberg<br>738 N. 5 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 200<br>Tucson, Arizona 85705 | 6532 7087 |
|---|-----------|
| Habitat Program Manager<br>c/o John Windes<br>Arizona Game and Fish Department<br>555 North Greasewood Road<br>Tucson, Arizona 85745  | 6532 7094 |
| Arizona State Land Department<br>c/o Stephen Williams<br>1616 West Adams<br>Phoenix, Arizona 85007                                    | 6532 7100 |
| Arizona Cattle Growers<br>1401 North 24 <sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 4<br>Phoenix, Arizona 85008                                       | 6532 7117 |
| Larry Humphrey P. O. Box 894 Pima, Arizona 85543  | 6532 7124 |